

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ACDA-07 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8414

INFO AMEBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION NATO

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 8137

USSALTTWO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CSCE UR US PROP

SUBJECT: SOVIET MEDIA BLAST PRESIDENT'S CSCE STATEMENT

REF: STATE 130949

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SUMMARY: IN THE SHARPEST DIRECT ATTACKS ON THE PRESIDENT WE HAVE NOTED TO DATE, A TASS ENGLISH COMMENTARY BY YURIY KORNILOV AND A TASS WASHINGTON ITEM (CARRIES IN PRAVDA JUNE 8) STRONGLY CRITICIZE THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE CSCE COMMISSION. BOTH ITEMS CHARGE THAT "SO-CALLED" SOVIET "DISSIDENTS" ARE AGENTS OF FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE,

AND THAT THE PRESIDENT'S CONCERN FOR THEM AMOUNTS TO INTERFERENCE IN SOVIET DOMESTIC AFFAIRS. ALTHOUGH OFFICIAL AND DISSIDENT SOVIET SOURCES HAVE RECENTLY COMMENTED ON WASHINGTON'S APPARENT RESTRAINT ON HUMAN RIGHTS, THE SHARP REACTION TRIGGERED BY THE REPORT SUGGESTS THAT MOSCOW, WHILE TRYING TO AVOID A SLUG-FEST IN BELGRADE, IS PREPARED FOR A WORST CASE CONTINGENCY. END SUMMARY.

1. THE TASS ENGLISH WIRE (JUNE 7) CARRIED A COMMENTARY BY POLITICAL OBSERVER YURIY KORNILOV ON THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE CSCE COMMISSION (ASSUME DEPT HAS TEXT; ARTICLE HAS NOT YET APPEARED IN CENTRAL NEWSPAPERS). KORNILOV'S KEY POINTS ARE:
--THE PRESIDENT IGNORES GROSS INEQUITIES IN THE US BUT "ASSUMES THE ROLE OF MENTOR" TO THE USSR AND OTHER "SOCIALIST" COUNTRIES;
--THE "SO-CALLED SOVIET 'DISSIDENTS'", WHO ARE CULTIVATED BY THE WHITE HOUSE, ARE IN FACT "A HANDFUL OF RIFF-RAFF WHO ARE PREPARED TO SELL THEIR MOTHERLAND FOR THIRTY COINS OR EVEN LESS AND BECOME AGENTS OF WESTERN SECRET SERVICES;"
--SUPPORT FOR THESE DISSIDENTS "BY WESTERN DIPLOMATS AND SO-CALLED 'SOVIETOLOGISTS'" IS ITSELF A VIOLATION OF THE HELSINKI AGREEMENTS;
-- PRESS PUBLICITY IS ONE THING, "BUT THE FACT THAT THE US PRESIDENT IS BEING DRAWN INTO THIS BALLYHOO AND OPENLY ENCOURAGES AND KINDLES IT, IS QUITE ANOTHER MATTER. SUCH A STAND CAN ONLY BE SEEN
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AS ANOTHER ATTEMPT AT INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE USSR AND OTHER SOCIALIST COUNTRIES."
--SUCH ACTIONS WILL HAVE NO EFFECT ON "SOCIALISM" BUT WILL "HAVE AN ADVERSE EFFECT ON SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS AND ON DETENTE AS A WHOLE;"
--DESPITE THIS, THE BELGRADE MEETING CAN BE USEFUL IF IT IS HELD "AS AN ACT OF COOPERATION AND NOT QUARREL (SIC)."

2. THE PRAVDA (TASS WASHINGTON) ARTICLE MAKES THE SAME POINTS, ADDING THAT THE CSCE COMMISSION WAS FORMED TO OPPOSE DETENTE AND THAT THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT WAS "WITHOUT DOUBT" COMPOSED BY OPPONENTS OF DETENTE WHO WISH TO SEE THE BELGRADE MEETING BECOME AN "ARENA OF CONFRONTATION." THE ITEM REPEATS THE CHARGE THAT DISSIDENTS ARE "AGENTS AND HELPERS OF AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE SERVICES" AND ALSO DENOUNCES THE PRESIDENT'S OPPOSITION TO THE WARSAW PACT NUCLEAR NON-FIRST-USD PROPOSAL.

3. COMMENT: THESE ITEMS ARE VEY TOUCH ON THE CSCE REPORT AND ON THE PRESIDENT DIRECTLY. ALTHOUGH SOVIET MEDIA HAVE KEPT UP A CONSTANT DRUMBEAT OF CRITICAL REPORTING ON ALLEGED US HUMAN RIGHTS HYPOCRISY, (FEATURING ALMOST DAILY REPORTS OF THE WILMINGTON TEN AS ALLEGED VICTIMS OF POLITICAL PERSECUTION) WHILE ADDING DEFENSES OF MOSCOW'S OWN RECORD, THEY HAVE RARELY (SINCE MARCH) CHARGED THE PRESIDENT DIRECTLY WITH INTERFERENCE IN SOVIET AFFAIRS. SOVIET OFFICIAL CONTACTS HAVE SAID IN RECENT WEEKS THAT THEY WERE ENCOURAGED BY WASHINGTON'S APPARENT RESTRAINT ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND WERE HOEPFUL THAT THIS ISSUE WOULD REMAIN SUBDUED WHILE PRGRESS WAS MADE IN OTHER AREAS. DISSIDENTS HAVE ALSO COMMENTED ON THIS APPARENT RESTRAINT, MOST RECENTLY IN SAKHAROV'S AP INTERVIEW, BUT THE EMPHASIS WAS THE OPPOSITE. THE CONFIDENTIAL

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PUBLICATION OF THE CSCE REPORT, TOGETHER WITH WESTERN (ESPECIALLY US) REACTION TO THE SHCHARANSKIY CASE, MAY HAVE CONVINCED THE SOVIETS THAT THERE IS NO REASONABLE POSSIBILITY THAT THEY CAN AVOID BEING CALLED TO ACCOUNT IN BELGRADE ON BASKET III. IF SO, THESE ARTICLES MAY REPRESENT THE CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT FO A CONTINGENCY POSITION FOR BELGRADE. MATLCOK

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